Ms. Nina King, editor
Book World
Washington Post
1150 15 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20071

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21702
1/26/92

Dear Ms. King,

In recent weeks Book World has published two subject-matter ignoramuses on the JFK assassination despite the availability of authentic experts. It gave John G. Leyden a full page, more than it devotes to a major review, for an obvious exploitation and commercialization of the subject guised as a rewview of the literature, untainted by consultation with such standard sources as "Books in Print."

His quick-buck pseudo-scholarship, flawed in almost every conceivable way, misleads your readers in representing that there is and has been only conspiracy-theory books, supporting or criticizing the Warren Report.

Conspiracy is a matter of fact, not of theory. Beginning with the first book, the first of my "Whitewas" series, all still available and unmentioned, there has never been a time when readers did not have access to non-theorizing books.

Also unmentioned when he devotes so much space to obvious trash are Sylvia Meagher's magnificent "Accessories after the Fact" and Howard Roffman's excellent "Presumed Guilty," two of the earlier works, both entirely factual, with no conspiracy theorizing.

If Leyden actually read the books about which he writes rather than paraphrasing the opinions of others, his judgement is childishly incompetent, as in describing Jim Moore's ~~Mootre's~~ "Conspiracy of One" (sic)as a "point-by-point" rebuttal of books critical of the Warren Report. In fact it is a stupid, irrational exploitation that rebuts nothing.

Political assassinations are much too important in representative society for their exploitation and commercialization, whether from the Oliver Stones or the Leydens or Moores and their ilk to be treated with respect, especially when not a single one of the works that do not theorize conspiracy and are entirely factual are ignored.

Shame on Book World for repeating its poor judgement twice in recent weeks.

Harold Weisberg

Harold

FYI: available, authentic experts include Drs. David Wrone, Univ. Wisconsion, Stephens Point, WI and Gerald McKnight, Hood College, Frederick, Md., both professional historians, and Dr. Gerald Ginocchio, a sociologist at Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C.

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